Puritanism Document Based Question:

DBQ and Persuasive Writing

**Due Dates:**

**Draft: Friday, February 26th**

**Final Paper: Tuesday, March 8th**

**What is This Paper?**

This paper is a **DBQ (a document based question**) that asks you to use multiple sources to answer a question that does not have a right or wrong answer. The quality of your answer is found in the evidence and explanation you use to **persuade** the reader.

We will be studying and learning how to answer a DBQ, as well as how to use elements of persuasive writing to convey our ideas.

**The Question:**

Read and analyze the sources in this packet to answer the following question: **Were the Puritans a strong society?**

Were the Puritans a strong society with a system of rules, laws, and government that worked to protect their freedom and beliefs? Or, were they a scared group of people who made discriminatory and unfair laws out of fear of difference?

No halfway—*they were a mix!—*answers will be accepted.

**What will I be graded on?**

A rubric will be handed out separate from this packet (which is already quite long!), but in short, you will be graded on your paragraph construction (topic sentences, evidence, explanation, conclusion sentences), thesis statement, **use of evidence from at least 3 sources**, transition words, and citation of sources. In addition, you will receive a grade for going through all steps in the process and using class time effectively.

**Timing**

This will take a big chunk of class time over the next couple of weeks. You will be working in groups and partnerships to dive into the source analysis, to peer edit, and to work together to solve problems. It is critical you use your time in class effectively. Failure to use your time effectively will result in a lower grade and a lower quality work. With that being said, if you are absent, you must come to see me so we can structure a make up time plan for you. A big part of this project is learning to pace and keep up with a writing plan.

**Source #1:** *The Witch of Blackbird Pond,* By Elizabeth George Speare

Use any portion of the novel as part of the document. If you are having a hard time finding a part, here are a few suggestions…

“‘Bah!’ Matthew Wood pushed back his chair and rose to his feet. ‘Justice! What do you young men know about rights and justice? A soft life is all you have ever known. Have you felled the trees in a wilderness and built a home with your bare hands? Have your fought off the wolves and the Indians? Have your frozen and starved through a single winter? The men who made this town understood justice. They knew better than to look for it in the King’s favor. The only rights worth all that toil and sacrifice are the rights of free men and equal under God to decide their own justice. You’ll learn. Mark my words, some day you’ll learn to grow your sorrow!’ He stumped off up the stairs without a goodnight.” (Speare, 71)

“‘Mistress Tyler, you are accused by Adam Cruff with the following actions. Firstly that you were the familiar friend and companion of the Widow Hannah Tupper of Blackbird Pond, an alleged witch who has within the past week disappeared in a suspicious manner. Such friendship is a lawful test of guilt, inasmuch as it is well known that witchcraft is an art that may be learned and conveyed from one person to another, and that it has often fallen out that a witch, upon dying, leaveth some heir to her witchcraft.

‘Secondly, that you are guilty of actions and works which infer a court with the devil, which have caused illness and death to fall upon many innocent children in this town.’

The clerk sat down. Captain Talcott eyed the girl before him. Quite plainly he had a distaste for the duty at hand, but his stern soldierly countenance did not soften.

‘Mistress Tyler,’ he said, ‘you have heard the complaints against you. We will proceed with the first accusation. Is it true that you were a friend and companion of the Widow Tupper?’” (Speare, 210)

**Source #2:** *Connecticut Witch Trials: The First Panic in the New World*, by Cynthia Wolfe Boynton

*There were many reasons for how and why people were accused of being witches during the Connecticut Witch Trials. For example, a number of the most important reasons are listed below.*

* At least two neighbors said they suspected you of being a witch.
* Someone already convicted of witchcraft testified that you were a witch, too.
* After you threatned or argued with another person, that person suddenly got sick, or their cow died, or a candle led to their house burning down, or another unexpected event occurred for no apparent reason. “Anything unexplainable was blanked on witchcraft,” said Connecticit state historian Walter Woodward.
* A close family member of friend is suspected of being a witch.
* You were born with an unusual birthmark that could be mistaken for a witch’s mark.
* While being questioned, you get angry or contradict anything you previously said.

**Source #3:** “Puritans”, by Michael Kauffman

The Puritans were Protestant reformers who originated in England. Later they spread to the American colonies of New England. Their goal was to "purify" religion and politics of corruption. They were first called Puritans by their enemies. But eventually they adopted the name for themselves as a badge of honor.

**The Puritans in England**

The Puritan movement began as a part of the Protestant Reformation in England. In the early 1500's, King Henry VIII had broken ties with the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church. His daughter, Queen Elizabeth I, continued to move the country toward Protestantism. However, some reformers felt that Elizabeth's measures were not extreme enough to rid the country of Catholic influences. These reformers came to be known as the Puritans.

The Puritans emphasized the importance of an individual's personal relationship to God and to the Bible. They wanted to eliminate all frivolity and decoration from the church. This included organ music, stained-glass windows, incense, and fancy religious robes. They forbade anything that drew attention away from one's inner spirituality.

The Puritans also wished to improve the quality of the ministry. They encouraged ministers to write their own original and inspiring sermons, rather than simply quoting from *The Book of Common Prayer*.

The Puritans were highly critical of England's established church. As a result, they were severely persecuted by England's king Charles I and his archbishop, William Laud. Numerous Puritans went into hiding in England. Others fled into exile throughout Europe. Others escaped to the New World. Eventually, the Puritans who remained in England engaged in a civil war. They were led by Oliver Cromwell. The Puritans executed King Charles I, and Cromwell briefly took control of England (1649–60).

**Migration to the New World**

In 1630, John Winthrop (1588–1649) led the first group of English Puritans to Massachusetts Bay in New England. They sailed on a ship called the *Arbella*. They were among the first immigrants to come to America in search of a better life. But they were not the "poor, huddled masses" known to later generations. Most were well-educated ministers, lawyers, merchants, and farmers. Many enjoyed connections to religious and political leaders back in England. The Puritans thought of New England as a place to experiment with new structures of church and state governments. They hoped to serve as models for reform in England and other parts of the world.

Winthrop was a founder and four-term governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He believed in **theocracy**. This form of government combines the laws of church and state. It emphasizes the greater good of the community over personal gain. Winthrop envisioned "a city upon a hill" that could serve as "a model of Christian charity." Other early Puritan leaders embraced Winthrop's beliefs. Among them were the ministers John Cotton, John Harvard (founder in 1638 of Harvard College), Richard Mather, Richard's son Increase Mather, and Increase's son Cotton Mather. They and their followers established churches in towns throughout New England. Sites included Boston and Newtown (present-day Cambridge), in Massachusetts, and Hartford and New Haven, in Connecticut.

**Source #4:** “Strength”, Merriam-Webster Dictionary

**Full Definition of *strength***

*plural* **strengths**\ˈstreŋ(k)ths, ˈstren(t)ths, ˈstreŋks\

1. the quality or state of being strong :  capacity for exertion or endurance
2. power to resist force :  [solidity](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/solidity), [toughness](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/toughness)
3. power of resisting attack :  [impregnability](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/impregnability)
4. legal, logical, or moral force :  a strong attribute or inherent asset *<the strengths and the weaknesses of the book are evident>*
5. degree of potency of effect or of concentration *<chili peppers in varying strengths>b* :  intensity of light, color, sound, or odor :  vigor of expression
6. force as measured in numbers :  effective numbers of any body or organization *<an army at full strength>*
7. one regarded as embodying or affording force or firmness :  [support](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/support) *<you are my love and my strength>*
8. maintenance of or a rising tendency in a price level :  firmness of prices *<the strength of the dollar>*

9 :  [basis](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/basis) —used in the phrase *on the strength of*

**Source #5:** “Proctor Family of the Salem Witch Trials”, by Legends of America

[](http://www.editimage.org/)

**Thesis Statement: Your assertion. Were the Puritans a Strong Society or not? What are the three big ways you will prove this assertion?**

*The Puritans are a strong (or are not a strong) society because…*

The Puritans were\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_because

**Thesis:**

Bucket 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Bucket 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Bucket 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_